

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
 POULTRY PROGRAMS, MARKET NEWS BRANCH
 60 FORSYTH STREET, SW SUITE 6M80
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303

OFFICE: 404-562-5850 FAX: 404-562-5875 JOHNNY FREEMAN: 404-562-5870
 INTERNET: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/marketnews.htm> RECORDING: 404-562-5856

May 23, 2003

ESTIMATED U.S. LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTER UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
 FOR WEEK ENDING 24-May-03 (THOUSAND HEAD)

	CURRENT WEEK 05/24/03	PREVIOUS WEEK 05/17/03
BRO-FRY	163,640	158,662
LT HENS	1,770	1,626
HVY HENS	1,514	1,394

U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN CANADA
 WEEK ENDING 17-May-03 (THOUSAND HEAD)

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL
HEAD	211	0	211
HEAD SLTR COMPARISONS			
LAST WEEK	98	0	98
SAME WEEK YR AGO	332	4	336
TO-DATE/2003	5,417	68	5,485
TO-DATE/2002	6,557	28	6,585

SOURCE: AGRICULTURE CANADA, POULTRY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

TOTAL U.S. FOWL SLAUGHTERED IN THE U.S. AND CANADA

	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL
HEAD	1,704	1,313	3,017
HEAD SLTR COMPARISONS			
LAST WEEK	1,684	1,364	3,048
SAME WEEK YR AGO	2,178	1,284	3,462
TO-DATE/2003	39,112	26,441	65,553
TO-DATE/2002	43,444	26,264	69,708

LIVE POULTRY SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION
 WEEK ENDING 17-May-03 (THOUSAND HEAD)

	YOUNG CHICKENS	LIGHT HENS	HEAVY HENS	TOTAL HENS
HEAD	155,533	1,493	1,313	2,806
AVG WT	5.25	3.42	7.93	5.53
HEAD SLTR COMPARISONS				
LAST WEEK	155,587	1,586	1,364	2,950
SAME WK YR AGO	158,538	1,846	1,280	3,126
AVG WT	5.10	3.41	8.15	5.35
TO-DATE/2003	3,008,808	33,695	26,373	60,068
TO-DATE/2002	3,077,610	36,887	26,236	63,123

(A) The estimated number of fryers available for marketing based on the 2-week revised average chick placements 6 to 7 weeks earlier was 158.7 million head. Estimated U.S. slaughter for this period 157.4 million head or 1.3 million head less than or 99% of estimated fryers available.

**YOUNG CHICKENS SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION,
CLASSIFIED BY LIVE WEIGHT, WEEK ENDING May 22,03**

(A) FAST FOOD/FOOD SERVICE	(B) RETAIL	(C) DEBONING
4.20 LBS & DOWN	4.21-5.25 LBS	5.26 LBS & UP
-----THOUSANDS-----		

Head	25,759	32,656	48,513
Avg Weight	3.79	4.82	6.09
% of total /1	24%	31%	45%
COMPARISONS			
Last week	23,416	20,909	52,871
Avg Weight	3.77	4.75	6.15
% of total /1	24%	22%	54%
Same week, yr ago /2	26,861	29,599	50,265
Avg Weight	3.69	4.77	6.06
% of total /1	25%	28%	47%
To date/2003	461,458	439,996	825,438
To date/2002	575,398	456,401	903,804

/1 MAY NOT TOTAL TO 100% DUE TO ROUNDING

/2 COMPARABLE WEEK

- (A) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the fast food and food service industries. May also include Cornish hens.
- (B) This weight class generally denotes chickens marketed in the retail industry.
- (C) This weight class generally denotes chickens used in further processing. May also include heavy roasters sold in retail channels.

**LIVE TURKEYS SLAUGHTERED WEEK ENDING 17-May-2003
(THOUSAND HEAD)**

	YOUNG (B) HENS	TOMS	YOUNG BREEDERS	OLD BREEDERS	TOTAL
HEAD	2,120	2,863	97	10	5,090
AVG WT	16.00	36.85	26.47	30.84	27.95
HEAD SLTR COMPARISONS					
LAST WEEK	2,123	2,910	96	5	5,134
SAME WK YR AGO	1,929	2,793	44	11	4,777
AVG WT	15.58	35.77	21.76	31.59	27.47
TO-DATE/2003	35,244	53,923	1,241	298	90,706
TO-DATE/2002	35,988	52,540	864	148	89,540

SOURCE: USDA/AMS POULTRY PROGRAMS, MARKET NEWS BRANCH.
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (404) 562-5850.